

**APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR MANUALLY SELECTING,
DISPLAYING, AND REPOSITIONING DIMENSIONS OF A PART MODEL**

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/034,356, filed March 4, 1998, the contents of which is expressly incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to computer aided design (CAD) systems and computerized drafting tools for designing and modeling parts, such as sheet metal parts. More particularly, the invention relates to an apparatus and method for selecting, displaying and repositioning dimensions of a CAD part model on a display screen.

2. Background Information

Traditionally, the production of bent sheet metal components at, for example, a progressive sheet metal manufacturing facility, involves a series of production and manufacturing stages. The first stage is a design stage during which a sheet metal part design is developed based on a customer's specifications. The customer will typically place an order for a particular sheet metal component to be produced at the facility. The customer's order will usually include the necessary product and design information so that the factory may manufacture the component. This information may include, for example, the geometric dimensions of the part, the material required for the part (e.g., steel, stainless steel or aluminum), special forming information, the batch size, the delivery date, etc. The sheet metal part requested by the customer may be designed and produced for a wide variety of applications. For example, the produced component may ultimately be used as an outer casing for a computer, an electrical switchboard, an arm rest in an airplane, or a part of a door panel for a car.

During the design stage, the design office of the manufacturing facility may develop a sheet metal part design using an appropriate Computer Aided Design